

NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES  
CITY OF NORMAN

November 22, 2021

The Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Municipal Complex located at 201 West Gray Street on November 22, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were duly posted 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

**Item 1, being: ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioners Christina Owen (Chair), Marjaneh Seirafi-Pour (Vice-Chair), Jackie Farley, Chris Nanny, Ellen Kraft

ABSENT: Commissioners Samuel Woodfork, Cathy Billings, Dr. Hairong Song, Michael Kihega

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Diversity and Equity Officer Cinthya Allen, Assistant City Attorney Anthony Purinton, Legal Admin Tech Sarah Encinias

**Item 2, being: Approval of the Minutes of the following meetings: July 26, 2021, and August 9, 2021 Special Meeting**

Commissioner Nanny motioned to approve the Minutes of the July 26, 2021, meeting and the August 9, 2021, Special Meeting and the motion was duly seconded by Vice-Chair Seirafi-Pour. Roll was called with the following results: all approved, and none opposed. Both meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**Item 3, being: Introduction of New Commissioner, Michael Kihega**

This item was skipped as Commissioner Kihega was absent from the meeting.

**Item 4, being: Discussion and possible action on Human Rights Award**

Ms. Allen reviewed the criteria for the Human Rights Award and said the City's Chief Communications Officer would begin publicizing it soon so there is enough time for nominations to come in. A nominee would then be chosen at the next HRC meeting and will receive the award at the February 8, 2022, City Council Meeting.

**Item 5, being: Discussion and possible action regarding 2022 Interfaith Breakfast**

The breakfast is scheduled for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 17, 2022. Ms. Allen discussed that although last year's event was held as a live event streamed

online, it should be able to be held in person this year. Commissioners discussed possible venue locations and chose McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church because the location is central, previous guests are familiar with the church and its location, and the space is large enough to accommodate over 200 guests. Commissioners discussed using the sound system at McFarlin to play background music before and after the event, and possibly use the projector to display a logo or picture. The event management website, Eventbrite, will be used to keep track of reservations and a link to the site will be provided with the invitation that is emailed to previous attendees. Doors will open at 8:00 am, breakfast will begin at 8:30 am, and the program will start at 9:00 am.

La Baguette will be asked to cater the event again this year with the same continental type spread that was ordered in the two previous years. The cost is about \$8.50 per plate for a total of 350 people plus the cost of a server. And similar to last year, Ms. Allen said after the breakfast the Mayor plans to hold outdoor Day of Service activities and guests at the breakfast will be informed of this opportunity as well.

Members discussed ideas regarding a possible keynote speaker and what the theme of the breakfast could be. Chair Owen said she would compile ideas and present them to the Mayor for a decision.

**Item 6, being: Discussion and possible action regarding potential HRC Retreat**

Mr. Purinton suggested that the next HRC meeting scheduled for January 24, 2022, be similar to the retreats attended by City Council every year. The purpose would be for commissioners to decide on a goal plan for the next calendar year. The meeting would be about 3 hours during the middle of the day with lunch provided. Commissioners approved this recommendation and set the meeting time as 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

**Item 7, being: Discussion and possible action regarding 2022 HRC Meeting Calendar**

Commissioners unanimously approved the monthly meeting schedule for Calendar Year 2022, with the amendment for a Commissioner's retreat in January (see item 6 above). With the exception of the January meeting, all other meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month in the Executive Conference Room beginning at 5:30 pm. Meetings that are not needed will be cancelled 24 hours in advance.

**Item 8, being: MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

Ms. Allen said she is hosting Community & Conversation sessions and she invited HRC members to attend and to help get the word out. This event encourages involvement through dialogue and awareness regarding diversity and engagement. The next session will be on December 1, 2021, at the Central Library from 6-8 pm. The event is free and participants are asked to register online at EventBrite.

Chair Owen said the HRC's recommendation to create a People of Color committee was read by City Councilmember, Lee Hall, during the previous Oversight Committee. The recommendation was approved for submission and it was sent to City staff for review of language, process, etc.

Mr. Purinton said applications to open/maintain a public fridge are now available online but as of this date, none have been submitted.

**Item 9, being: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.